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September 16, 1999

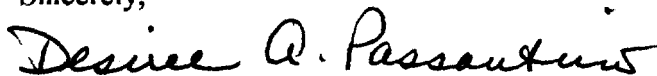
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket numbers 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to request that the FDA take a hard look at the molting practices of **the** egg industry in **this** country. Forced molting places a stress on the hens that permits disease to attack their immune systems. Infections affect the **overstressed** animals as well as consumers. The FDA has the jurisdiction to ban **farm** practices that encourage forced molting and must do more **than** put warning labels on egg cartons and regulating **refrigeration** temperatures. The FDA must do **more because in the** long run, people, such as myself, will look to **free-range** hens, private **farmers**, or, simply, go without eggs in their diet. Not a problem. What is a problem, is that even though a petition has been submitted to the FDA **in** the spring of 1998, to ban forced molting, **the** FDA has not responded to consumers' interests regarding FORCED MOLTING.

Sincerely,



Desiree A. Passantino

97P-0197

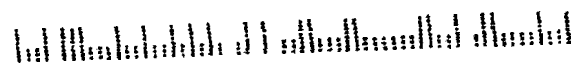
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C704

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C705
96P-0418/C704